

Calcutta, 2 May 1882.

My dear Haver,

I dare say you know that I have been away from Calcutta for some months, among the islands of the Mergui Archipelago. I only very recently returned, & I now hasten to reply to your letter of the 2 December which I found waiting my arrival.

I hope you have received the word cuts for the *Chiroptera* which were in tandem with the publishers.

About your second question, regarding the pelvic bones of *Neomeris*: I have never been able to find these bones in that dolphin. ^{at least} I have looked most carefully for them in a considerable series.

Dr. John Anderson, Zoologist

I am among a curious people in the
Mergui Archipelago called the Selungs,
apparently closely allied, I should
think, to the Tacovons of the main-
land. I succeeded in getting two of their
skulls as they crepe their heads on
platforms in the forest. They live for
the greater part of the year in boats,
but during the South West monsoon
they retire to sheltered bays, where they
erect little huts on stakes about 8 feet
high, generally selecting a high sandy
shore for the purpose. They live by
collecting ^{shells} *Beche de mer*, spearing fish, &
collecting honey & wax in the rainy season.
They are very timid people, but I succeeded
with the aid of rice, red cloth beads &c
in getting 45 boats to spend 15 days with
me in the Doay a little pleasure ground

Islands. Each boat generally contains
a man, his wife, & children with a pack of
5 to 6 dogs, and in nearly the wild pig
abundant on all the islands.

I succeeded in photographing them, but as
I had only dry plates with me, & as this
process was new to me, I am afraid, my
view of them is not very good, but it gives
the general character.

I formed a very large collection of corals,
Mollusks & other marine invertebrates &
a fine collection of sea snakes (*Hydrophids*).
I also visited the Suva collection of mammals
& birds. The ~~most~~ most prevalent mammals
in the islands are the human deer and
the wild pig and *Leuconiphetus phayrei* &
M. cynomolgus. In haste
for mine
J. H. S. S. S.

ANDERSON, John

(Dr.)

Zoologist

A.L.S. dated May 2, 1882
to Mr. Flower